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LETTER DATED 10 OCTOBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

My Government welcomes the readiness of the international community to use air power to protect United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) forces in performing their duties in the United Nations protected areas (UNPAs) and the initiative taken by the Security Council in adopting the relevant resolution. This August Republic of Croatia had proposed, at the meeting of the President of Croatia, Mr. Franjo Tudjman, and the Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, Mr. Kofi Annan, to extend air support for the safety of United Nations troops in Croatia. Therefore Croatia is ready to provide all necessary help in the implementation of the provisions of aforesaid measures and, in support of this action, Croatia offers the use of selected airport facilities.

It is the firm opinion of the Croatian Government that close air support to UNPROFOR in the territory of Croatia is an important step for the successful implementation of the Vance plan and all the relevant Security Council resolutions. This measure will enable UNPROFOR to fulfil its task in the UNPAs more effectively and more safely. We are encouraged by this first step, which Croatia observes as the beginning of eventual wider responsibility of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Alliance in implementing a peace plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.

The resolution which the Security Council is ready to adopt should serve as an important message to the Serbian insurgents in the UNPAs, who are still opposing the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions and who remain a major threat to the security of the UNPROFOR forces. The Croatian Government sincerely hopes that the Serbian side will finally stop opposing the implementation of the Vance peace plan and relevant Security Council resolutions and comply with their provisions, especially with resolution 871 (1993).

Considering that the Security Council is ready to decide to take all necessary measures to extend close air support to UNPROFOR on the territory of Croatia, as recommended by the report of the Secretary-General of 20 September 1993 (S/26470), Croatia accordingly accepts the presence of NATO combat aircraft in its airspace.

However, for the modalities of the use of Croatian airspace for that purpose and for the necessary tactical coordination, Member States or regional

organizations are kindly requested to contact the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Maritime, Traffic and Telecommunication Affairs of Croatia, and - acting in close cooperation with those Ministries and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs - establish joint rules of procedure for the military operations within Croatian airspace.

I would like to ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Permanent Representative